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21 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: GAO Request for Post-Mortem on the Mayaguez Affair

1. Mr. Michael Oppenheimer of the General Accounting Office (Code 189, ext 5550) telephoned me at 1030 hours 21 July. After introducing himself, he stated that the GAO was undertaking a post-mortem study of the Mayaguez affair at the request of the House International Relations Committee. The latter committee had asked the GAO to prepare two things: (a) a detailed chronology of the events and all US Government activities surrounding the Mayaguez incident, and (b) an analysis of how the US Government's "crisis management system" worked during the episode. Mr. Oppenheimer indicated that the director of the GAO project would be Mr. Charles Hylander, the Deputy Director of the International Division of the GAO. Mr. Oppenheimer and four or five other GAO staff officers would be working on the investigation.

2. Mr. Oppenheimer then stated that he had read my 15 May 1975 testimony before the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, and that he wanted to talk to me and "my people" concerning the Mayaguez. He added that the GAO would be requesting a number of documents from us. He further stated that the GAO had sent a lengthy letter to the NSC "last week" (date not further specified) asking for detailed information on what various US Government agencies had done during the Mayaguez affair.

3. I responded that I had no objection to talking to him, but that the proper channel for this request was through the CIA's Legislative Counsel. I indicated that I would pass the information in paragraphs 1 and 2 above on to the Legislative Counsel's office and that we would then call him back. I said that I knew the Senate Select Committee was also interested in the Mayaguez incident and expressed the hope that the Agency would not be asked to do the same thing at different times for different committees of the Congress. The conversation ended amicably on that note.

STAT [redacted]

National Intelligence Officer
for South and Southeast Asia

cc: Mr. Cary, OLC
Mr. Carver, D/DCI/NIO
Mr. Walsh, ADDI
STAT [redacted], ICS
AC/EA/DDO

Mayaguez

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